In Support of the Wisconsin Academy Staff Development Initiative (WASDI)

by other WASDI lead teachers and posted on WASDILine for download.

- 16. The administrators of our schools were invited to attend for a day at our WASDI training. My school is administratively very, very lean. Nonetheless my teacher-in-charge did attend and was as enthused as I about the ideas for adapting to standards-based curriculum, lessons, and assessment. From that experience we have a common reference, vocabulary and understanding to express the change we work to achieve.
- 17. My expression of leadership in my school is to initiate standards based lesson planning and to connect curriculum centers to my math lessons. In the area of geography the math class might make square or circle shaped representations of the area of countries being studied in the geography classroom. I conferred with the language arts teacher regarding poetry; in the math classroom we measure words by the number of letters and use descriptive statistics to search for similarities and differences between the distribution of word lengths in poems of different poets. From the language arts teacher I get copies of the pre-writing organizers and I incorporate them in the writing about solving math problems. The math class uses historical census data to show different representations of population growth within states and census regions; the history teacher connects that data to major issues in history.
- 18. In my life before WASDI my computer needs were satisfied by a Radio Shack HX-2000. In order to participate on WASDILine I purchased the first version of iMAC in December 1998. Since that time I have logged 21 DAYS and 21+ HOURS on WASDILine. That is more than 543 **after-school-hours** on-line over 28.5 months. And that can be further expressed as 17+ hours per calendar month of after-school hours over a period of 2 1/3 years. That does not include the time spent researching the internet.
- 19. Other opportunities present themselves as a result of participating in WASDI. Vendors and publications discovered me a couple months after "graduating" from WASDI. I also began receiving notices of professional in-services. I recently applied and was accepted to participate in an on-line Eishenhower-sponsored workshop titled "Internet Applications in Statistics" sponsored by University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse. Participants will meet each other at a one-day event.
- 20. Please help support the Shibilski motion to continue this critical program. Your support will be greatly appreciated by all Wisconsin's schools working hard to upgrade to Wisconsin's Model Academic Standards.

JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE PUBLIC HEARING April 3, 2001

MEMBERS OF THE JOINT FINANCE COMMITTEE:

Welcome to Marshfield! I would like to thank you on your efforts to be out in the state taking testimony on the State Budget. I hope that you will enjoy your visit to our fine community of Marshfield and a part of Senator Shibilskis' Senate District.

My comments are directed to four specific areas of the budget:

- School board flexibility under the revenue caps
- Reduction of support for Summer School
- Need for increased support for mandated special education
- Non fiscal policy issues contained in the budget

THE NEED FOR SOME FLEXIBILITY UNDER THE REVENUE CAPS:

School Boards must have some form of flexibility in order to deal with the impact of the unexpected. Declining enrollments are having a severe impact on our district just as they are in many schools across the state. Our school district has declined by 250 students in the past five (5) years. We anticipate a decline of 600 in the next five (5) years. At our per pupil allocation of approximately \$7,000, we'll be down six (6) million dollars in operating money each year due to declining enrollment.

There are areas that are even harder to project such as the increases to health insurance and the rapid rise in heating costs that we saw this past winter.

In Marshfield we were hit this past spring with a health insurance increase of over 30% which amounted to an increase of some \$600,000 that we needed to reduce from our budget over the summer months. Our overall revenue increased by less than \$900,000, forcing us to use two-thirds of our new revenue to pay health insurance. This year we will again see an increase of over 14% or over \$400,000 in health insurance costs.

The method in which the legislature has set up the Revenue Cap allowable increase of \$220 per student and the wording of the QEO or Qualified Economic Offer plus lane changes usually does not cover the increases to the overall budget much less the large and unexpected inflationary increases that we have witnessed in our budgets. Being proposed is a fixed yearly per pupil increase to the Revenue Cap. To do that and not adjust for inflation will add to an already severe budgeting problem.

The result is that we have had to reduce services to our young people. Last year, our gifted and talented program was cut from our elementary schools as a cost savings measure. Our Reading specialist position was eliminated. Staff reductions were made in the areas of Library Media, Art, and Family & Consumer Ed. Our services for students with drug and alcohol abuse as well as a social worker position were reduced. The budget for classroom computers was decreased. Our equipment budget was cut by over \$200,000. This year, we are currently faced with a budget deficit of over \$1,000,000. To balance, we'll need to make reductions in staff, textbooks, athletics, teacher supplies, substitute teachers, and travel. Our current estimates are that we will be faced with million dollar deficits each year for the next five years unless something is done to bring in additional revenue. Soon, there will be no more programs, textbooks, staff, or computers to cut.

We ask that you provide School Districts with some form of flexibility under the Revenue Caps.

REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF SUMMER SCHOOL & SAGE FUNDING:

Schools are being asked to make significant improvements in student achievement and to bring all students up to a proficient level of learning. There is a good deal of research that would indicate that not all students learn at the same rate. Additional learning time can mean the difference between mastery of a topic or not. Summer School is an ideal time to provide that remedial education to our students. Sage helps those students who are most in need of additional help.

We ask that you keep the funding for Summer School at the 40% FTE and SAGE at their current level.

INCREASED SUPPORT FOR SPECIAL EDUCATION:

Special education is a program that is almost impossible for local schools to contain the costs for under the guidelines and mandates that the legislature and Congress have set up. Costs continue to rise to meet parent expectations. School district budgets become skewed toward special education programs protected under state mandates while regular education takes a harder and harder impact.

We have no local control over the costs for these mandated programs and would ask that the state fund more fully the cost of the special education programs.

We certainly appreciate the efforts during the last session to increase the funding for special education, especially the efforts of Senator Shiblilski.

POLICY ISSUES NOT OF A FISCAL NATURE:

There seems to be a large number of non fiscal issues contained in the budget document. These policy issues should have a separate hearing outside of the budget hearing in order for concerns to be properly addressed in the right format. Issues such as Chartering Authority, Scheduling Referenda, school start date, licensure changes, special education guidelines, transfer of assessment to DOA and many more. Those policy issues need to be heard on their own merits.

Please work to remove non-fiscal issues from the budget document.

We certainly appreciate your visit to Marshfield and your willingness to hear our testimony.

Sincerely,

Dr. Dave Smette Superintendent Mr. Pat Saucerman

Business Manager

April 5, 2001

Dear Members of the Joint Finance Committee:

We, the under-signed parents, encourage you to support the proposal before you to raise the entry-level income for parents seeking to participate in the Choice Program. We also encourage you to endorse and support the efforts to ensure that parents using the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program aren't dropped from the program for minor increases in income.

Parents often receive a promotion, slight salary increase or loads of mandatory overtime and then no longer qualify for the program. Such situations result in net loss of income they have just received, do to the fact that if they remain at the school they must now pay. Children who are moved from one school to another, greatly reducing their chance for success.

These situations and ones such as these are unjust and can be remedied by passing the proposal before you. Please become a hero for the children who are on the Choice Program and pass the proposal.

Thank you for taking the time to read our petition.

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April 4, 2001

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Moving a child from one school to another greatly reduces the chances of success for that child. Forcing parents to choose between the best school for younger children and college for a high school graduate is cruel. Because of current income guidelines, when families had a child move on to college and become independent, income technically changes and younger children have had to leave the choice program.

Also, some parents have received a premotion or slight salary increase and then no longer qualify for the choice program. Such situations result in a net loss of income for parents who are working hard to improve their conditions.

Situations such as these are unjust and can be partially remedied by passing the proposal before you. You can be the hero or many children and parents by remedying this today.

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Blessed Sacrament School 3126 South 41st Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215 (414) 649-4730 FAX (414) 649-4726

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NAME	ADDRESS
DEBORAH ZIELINSKI	1745 SOUTH 30 STREET
Hracy manteyel	2819 5. 49th Street.
This Locker	3465 S. 35th Street
MARGARET KARPEN	3400 S. 15 TH St.
Paulette Oberlin	2103 W. Layton Avc.

514 North 31st Street • Milwaukee, WI 53208 • School Office 933-6070 • Business Office 873-4151

April 4,2001

Dear members of the Joint Finance Committee:

I am very much in support of providing protection for parents with children in the Milwaukee Parental Choice Program. I would like you to pass the proposals for removing penalties related to increased income and to raise the lower limit for admission into the choice program from 175% of poverty to 185%.

Neither proposal will cost more in the long run because there is a cap on the number of participants who may take advantage of the MPCP. Both proposals make sense because they encourage parents to improve both their financial situation and the education of their children. Both proposals encourage parents to move up the economic ladder by ensuring that they will be able to choose the best school for their children and the job that pays the best.

Thank you very much for considering my opinion. I will be eagerly watching the outcome of this debate.

Sincerely,

2056 Blanco 4102 n. 4742 mila WI 53214

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Sincerely,

Name Jack Smith
Address 410 N. 310+
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Sincerely,

Name Mr. & Mr. Stanley Carter Address 3208 W. MT. Vernon Ave.

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Sincerely,

Name Address Jussa Storth 4702 N 1942 Pl

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NAME	ADDRESS
Phyllis D. Allen	425 N. 32nd ST. Milw. WI 53208
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514 North 31st Street • Milwaukee, WI 53208 • School Office 933-6070 • Business Office 873-4151

April 4, 2001

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NAME Donnes	ADDRESS 2538	5 N. 5th 8t
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Valecia Fitzpatrick	5335N 53 milwE 532/8

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Neither proposal will cost more in the long run because there is a cap on the number of participants who may take advantage of the MPCP. Both proposals make sense because they encourage parents to improve both their financial situation and the education of their children. Both proposals encourage parents to move up the economic ladder by ensuring that they will be able to choose the best school for their children and the job that pays the

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Sincerely,

Name Charle

Address

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Where diversity is celebrated

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Sincerely

Name MATIAS M BACA Address 418 N. 39th 5t

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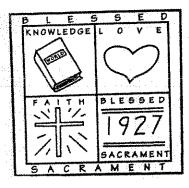
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Blessed Sacrament School

3126 South 41st Street Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53215 FAX (414) 649-4726 (414) 649-4730

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Address

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Shonda Dlover

Name Shonda Glover Address 2104 W. 415+ Upper

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NAME	ADDRESS
Norda Burron	5/8 W3057

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NAME	ADDRESS		
Maria D Hallogas	295 6	w Grahland	
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NAME		UUNESS	
Alpria	Hallogs	1452	N. 28th St.

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Khan	Vongatiofen	1839 N Z8 st	

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Hermila	Gallegos	15 06 N. 27 MT
53208		

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NAME	ADDRESS		
Felicitas Galley	°05 3327	w Hayes	. 1
	Milu	saukee, WI	<u> 23508</u>
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Am	L Jordan	2657	N. 36th St.	
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NAME	ADDRESS		
Landry J. Evans	7/12	w. Mill Rd.	
		vau Kee, W1 53018	2

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Cormela	Perca	3104 Wells #209	
		Milwauker, WI 53208	

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